

# TWO TEENAGE GIRLS ATTACKED: SEARCH FOR HANDCUFFED FIEND

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## TORRANCE HERALD

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# Hospital Board Happy Over Gift

## Ford Foundation Gives \$45,200

Torrance Memorial Hospital will be the recipient of a \$45,200 grant from the Ford Foundation, it was disclosed Monday. Members of the Torrance Hospital Board expressed great pleasure when informed of the grant, which was part of a \$500 million grant made to private hospitals and schools in all parts of the country.

"I am delighted that we were included in the program," Henry W. Creeger, president of the hospital board of directors declared. "We can have no further comment on the situation until we receive full details from the Ford Foundation."

Hospital Superintendent Elsa Hammerstrom had no comment.

**Bees Planned**

The announcement was made as the board of directors prepared to open bids for a new addition to present facilities at the hospital.

Bids will be opened Friday for the hospital addition, which will expand present facilities to include 93 beds, delivery and labor rooms, nurseries and complete maternity facilities, major and minor surgery rooms, fracture and accident treatment rooms, X-ray facilities, and a sterilizing and supply center. Also planned are administrative additions and other improvements.

During the campaign the cost

## Decoration Contest Set In Gardens

Prizes will be awarded for the best outdoor Christmas decorations or displays which can be viewed from the street in the Allied Garden area.

Cash awards will be presented by the Allied Garden Home-owners Assn., a trophy will be given to the outstanding display by the Greenhumbers Garden Club, and gift certificates will be presented by neighborhood merchants.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories—religious, lights, and children's displays—with judging scheduled starting next Monday.

Displays will be judged on the basis of beauty and ingenuity, officials said, but cost will not be a factor.

Santa Claus will visit homes from Clearside Ave. to Palos Verdes Blvd., tomorrow night, delivering candy canes to the children living there. On Saturday night, he will visit the area from Susana Ave. to Linda Dr. More than 1000 canes will be given out to children in the area.

## News Index

- Torrance's newest pastor—the Rev. Hugh R. Percy—has preached under nearly every type of condition from heat to cold and from battlefields to pulpits, a story on page 35 reports.
- Also on page 35 is a report on how children will bring gifts to the Baby Jesus (and needy families) at a program sponsored by the First Methodist Church Sunday.
- Musicians from Torrance High School will present their first annual Christmas program tonight. Details are on page 23.
- Other features are as follows:
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SCENE OF TRAGEDY . . . Fireman Bill Sprankling and Capt. Frank Tuttle check spot where sofa sat in the home of Elizabeth O. Lair, 19349 Flavian, who died in the smoke-filled house Sunday morning. Services for Mrs. Lair, wife of a seaman, will be conducted today.

## Funeral Today For Woman Who Died in Blaze

Funeral services are set today at 9 a.m. at Nativity Church for Mrs. Elizabeth Lair, 39, of 19349 Flavian Ave., who suffocated in her home early Sunday morning from smoke fumes after a fire started in a divan.

Fire department officials say the smoldering blaze apparently started from a lighted cigarette.

Police and fire department rescue units were called to the house at 7:45 a.m. Sunday. They said the home was filled with smoke, although little damage was done to the structure.

A resuscitator squad worked over Mrs. Lair for 30 minutes, but she was dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

Police say they received a frantic phone call from Mrs. Lair at 11:15 p.m. Saturday. When they investigated, she denied making a call, they said. A neighbor went over to the Lair home and stayed with the woman until 1 a.m. She said when she left, that Mrs. Lair was drinking.

Firemen say the divan was completely destroyed in the blaze. They indicated that it had been smoldering some time.

The victim was found in a hallway.

Funeral was recited last night for Mrs. Lair at Stone and Myers Chapel. The Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness will officiate at final rites today. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, Everett Lair, and her mother, Mrs. Richard Dowell, both of Torrance, and a sister, Mrs. Regina May, and an aunt, Mrs. Margaret Doyle, both of Compton.

## Trio Holds Girls For Three Hours

Two teen-agers are being held by police today and a third one is sought following an all-day orgy Monday during which two Gardena girls aged 13 and 15 were held captive in a Torrance home for nearly three hours and brutally ravished by the trio.

Arrested in South Bay Municipal Court yesterday on charges of forcible rape was Dickie Darrel Fields, 19, of 1620 W. 219th St. He was ordered held for preliminary hearing on the charges. A second member of the trio, a 16-year-old Torrance youth, has been turned over to Los Angeles County juvenile authorities for dispensation.

A third member of the gang, Paul Thomas Jones, 19, of 1410 W. 216th St., is still at large. He was apprehended and handcuffed but escaped while officers attempted to arrest the other pair. He was still handcuffed when last seen.

**Got Away Again**

Local police almost apprehended Jones again Tuesday night while following up a stolen car report. Charles Sorenson, of Gardena, reported the theft of his car from 220th St. and Cabrillo Ave., between 8 and 10 p.m.

A patrol car spotted the auto near Torrance Park and as they pulled up behind it, a man believed to be Jones leaped out of the front seat and made good his escape in the fog.

Sgt. D. C. Cook, head of the Police Department's juvenile section, gave the following report of the affair:

The three Torrance men picked up the two girls in Gardena about 1 a.m., Monday, after offering them a ride. The girls reported that they had never seen the three before.

**Purchase Liquor**

After coming to Torrance where they purchased some wine and beer, the men took the two girls to Banning High School in Wilmington where they picked them up later.

Stopping at a home at 2453 W. 236th St., on the pretext of making some coffee, the three men and the two young girls went inside. The occupant was away at work at the time, Cook said.

Once inside, the girls were attacked by the trio and held captive in the house for nearly three hours. A neighbor, hearing screams of the girls, called Torrance Police.

## Complaints Issued

Officer Myles Hamilton responded and nabbed Jones, handcuffed him, and placed him in the police car. The girls sobbed out their story and said the other two boys were inside. Hamilton went to look for them and Jones fled. The two men in the house also eluded the officer.

**Complaints Issued**

Officer Don Hamilton, responding to the scene, caught Fields and the 16-year-old youth in a field near 230th and Pennsylvania.

Complaints charging Fields and Jones with forcible rape were issued Tuesday by Deputy District Attorney William Keene. Each is held on \$5000 bail.

Both Jones and Fields have prior records with the police and both have been on probation, Cook reported.

## Santa Land Schedules for Week

- TODAY, DEC. 15**
- Santa Claus will not be at Santa Land this morning.
  - 10:30 to 12 noon—Santa visits Howard Wood School.
  - 2 to 3 p.m.—Santa Claus at Santa Land.
  - 3 to 4:30 p.m.—Santa visits stores on Torrance Blvd. as far out as Madrid Ave.
  - 7:30 p.m.—Santa Claus visits Hillside Elementary School.
- TOMORROW, DEC. 16**
- 9 to 10:30 a.m.—Santa visits Fern Avenue School.
  - 10:45 to 1:45 p.m.—Santa visits Crenshaw School cafeteria.
  - 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.—Santa at Howard Wood School.
  - 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.—Santa at North Torrance Elementary School.
  - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
  - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.—Three Arts Studio program at Santa Land.
  - 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.—Santa visits Cub Pack at Crenshaw School.
- SATURDAY, DEC. 17**
- 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—Santa at Stadium Theater for Plasterers and Cement Masons Union Christmas meeting.
  - 2 p.m.—Welfare Studio program at Santa Land.
  - 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
  - 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.—Bettie Thomas Accordionettes program at Santa Land.
  - 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.—Santa to visit Santa Land.
  - 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.—Melody Music Studio program at Santa Land.
  - 6:45 p.m.—Santa returns to Santa Land.
  - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.—Melvin Kaiser Studio of Dance program at Santa Land.
  - 8 p.m.—Entertainment by Centinela Valley Chapter Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. Bob Johnson, director.
- SUNDAY, DEC. 18**
- 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Santa at East Long Beach Kiwanis Club.
  - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.—Nativity Catholic Church choir singing Christmas Carols at Santa Land under direction of Larry Sargent.
- MONDAY, DEC. 19**
- 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
  - 3 p.m.—Santa in Santa's Float along with Bettie Thomas float along with entertainers will present one-half hour show at Santa Land, and then move to North Torrance. Santa will remain until 7 p.m.
  - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.—Baptist Church choir will sing Christmas Carols.
  - 8 to 9 p.m.—First presentation by ACCENT: Theatre of "Littlest Angel."
- TUESDAY, DEC. 20**
- 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.—Santa visits business stores.
  - 11 a.m. to 12 noon—Santa visits Harbor City Elementary School.
- WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21**
- 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
  - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—Santa visits downtown stores.
  - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
  - 2 p.m.—Voice choir of 200 Girl Scouts under direction of Mrs. B. Hardinghouse.
  - 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.—Santa visits stores.
  - 6:45 p.m.—Santa Claus at Santa Land.
  - 7 p.m.—First Methodist Church choir singing Christmas Carols.
  - 8 p.m.—Third and final presentation of "Littlest Angel."



SMELLING THE ROSES . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kametta and their three children, Danny, Mark, and Barbara, take a whiff of the roses which they will be smelling on New Year's Day. The couple, who live at 3903 W. 167th St., won a gala New Year's week end and a trip to the Rose Bowl in a contest sponsored by the Torrance new car dealers. Kametta's entry, completing the slogan, "I will buy my next new car from a Torrance dealer, because . . ." was judged best.

## Oil Field Report Due On Dec. 27th

A complete report on the status of Torrance's oil field pumps and other hazards throughout the city will be given to the City Council on Dec. 27, less than a week after the city's new ordinance regulating safety conditions goes into effect, Land Use Investigator George Powell reported this week.

The new ordinance, designed with the cooperation of the city and oil field operators, goes into effect on Dec. 23, Powell said. A 90-day waiting period was enacted with the ordinance to permit operators to comply with the provisions of the new law.

The matter was brought up at Tuesday's Council meeting and Powell said he was aware of several violations at the present time. He said it would take several days to complete a survey of the entire city, however.

Mayor Albert Isen suggested that the city be prepared to file charges against any violators following the effective date of the new law.

## CAP Pilot Goes Before CAA Board

Appearing before a CAA hearing board in Los Angeles yesterday was Maj. Davis C. Cochran, 37, of 268 Calle de Andalusia, pilot of a plane that crashed and burned in Rolling Hills last August, resulting in the death of CAP 2nd Lt. Jan Kirby, 25, of 5420 Linda Dr.

Major Cochran had asked for the hearing when CAA officials indicated that a suspension of his flying license was being considered.

The CAP officer, who was commander of Group 7 of Long Beach, was flying out of Torrance Municipal Airport on a training mission with Lieutenant Kirby, when the plane crashed near the Rolling Hills fire station. Mrs. Kirby died several weeks later in a Texas Air Force hospital.

The hearing was still in progress late yesterday and no conclusion was available.



GLAD TO ACCEPT . . . John K. Kosson, right, (Herald Photo) of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn., accepts trophy from Sgt. D. C. Cook for NTICIA's winning float in recent Christmas parade here. Cook, of Torrance Police Department, was parade coordinator. Civic association was one of number of groups awarded trophies for outstanding entries in parade.

ONLY 9 MORE SHOPPING DAYS 'til Christmas